



CITY OF  
FORT LAUDERDALE

# Public Engagement in the Budget Process

# The City of Fort Lauderdale's Commitment to Meaningful Public Engagement

1

Engage the  
Community

2

Build  
longstanding  
community  
relationships

3

Understand  
the  
community's  
wants and  
needs

4

Involve broad  
representation  
of community

5

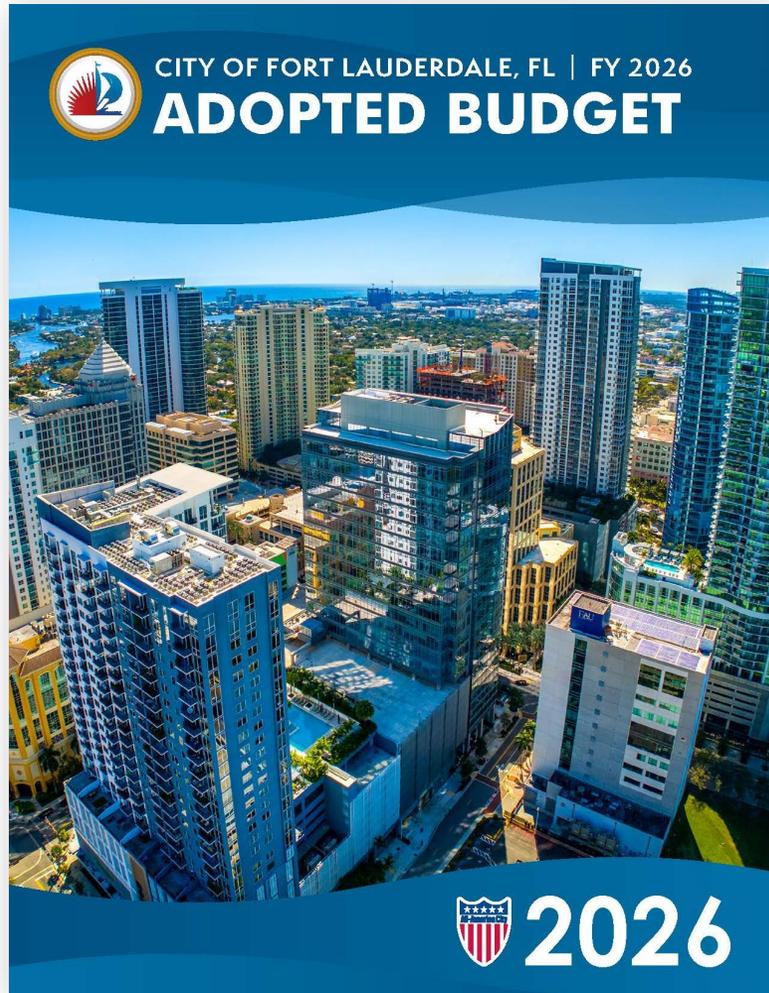
Utilize a variety  
of community  
engagement  
techniques

6

Track and  
share  
community's  
feedback over  
time



# Why Involve the Public in Budgeting

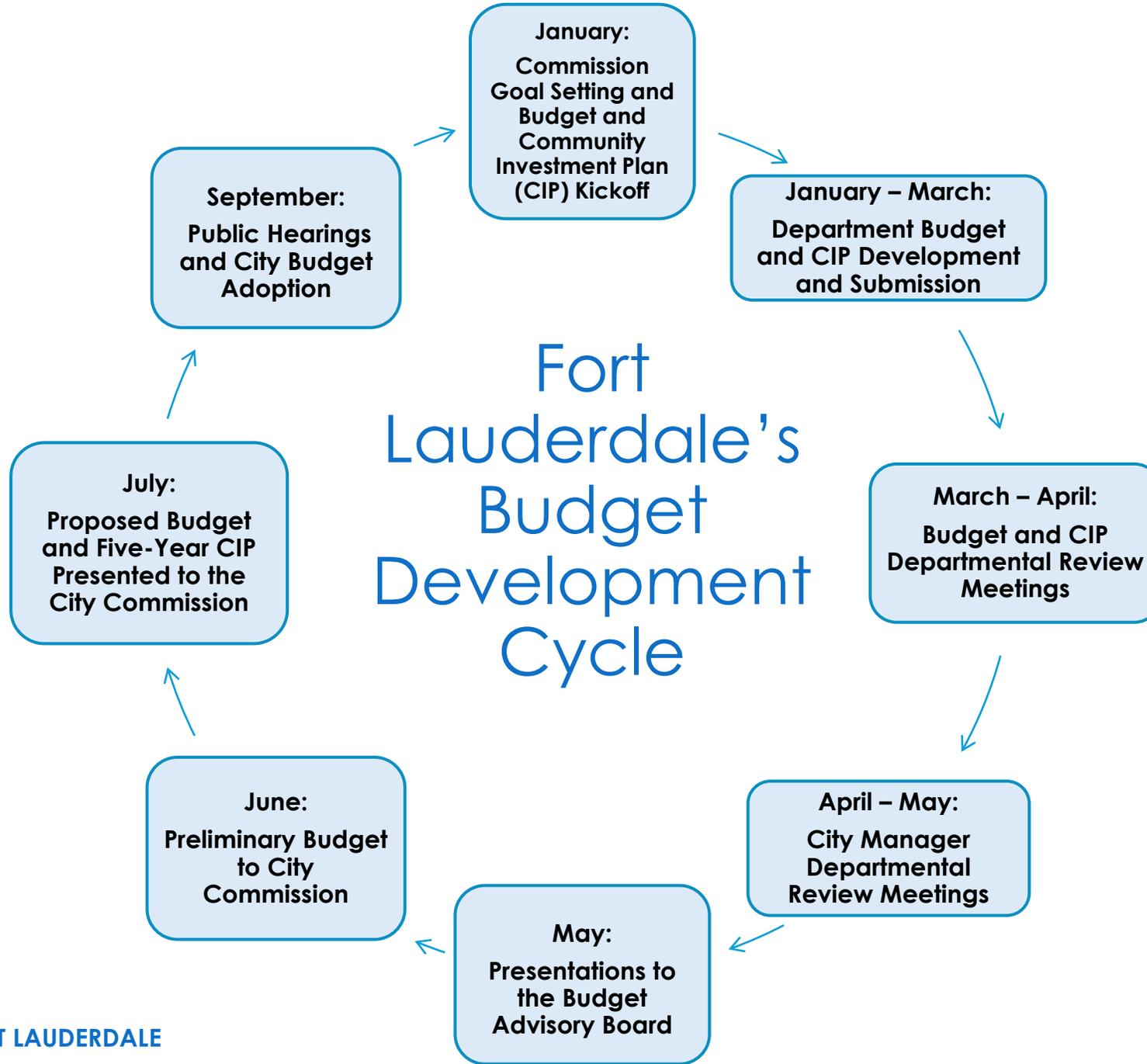


- The **annual budget** is typically the **strongest statement of the City's priorities** for the coming year; as such, it is important that the community is involved in the process
- Meaningful public involvement can **help residents understand the hard choices** that budgeting entails and assist elected officials in better understanding the programs and services the residents value the most
- Transparency about the government's budget and decision making **promotes public trust and confidence** that the City's public dollars are well spent

# Strategic Design and Approach



# Fort Lauderdale's Budget Development Cycle



# Overview of Key Meetings

Prioritization and Goal Setting with the City Commission	January 13
Revenue Estimating Conference Committee	March/April - TBD
Joint City Commission Workshop / Budget Advisory Board #1	April 21
Departmental Presentations to the Budget Advisory Board	May 6, 13, 20
Joint City Commission Workshop / Budget Advisory Board #2	June 16
Preliminary Budget to City Commission	June 16
<b>Proposed Budget &amp; Five-Year CIP to City Commission and Preliminary Rates Set by the City Commission</b>	<b>July 2</b>
City Auditor Review of Proposed Budget	July - August
Joint City Commission Workshop / Budget Advisory Board #3	August 18
Public Hearing (1 & 2) and Adoption of City Budget	September - TBD

# Budget Advisory Board (BAB)

## The **purpose** of the BAB is to:

- Provide the City with input regarding the taxpayer's perspective in the development of the annual operating budget
- Review projections and estimates from the City Manager regarding revenues and expenditures for the upcoming fiscal year
- Advise the City Commission on service levels, priorities and, fiscal solvency
- Submit recommendations to the City Commission no later than August 15 of each year regarding a budget for the upcoming fiscal year



# Budget Advisory Board

## Key Annual Meetings:

What Keeps You Up at Night?

Operating Budget Requests

Recommendations to the City Manager

## Members:

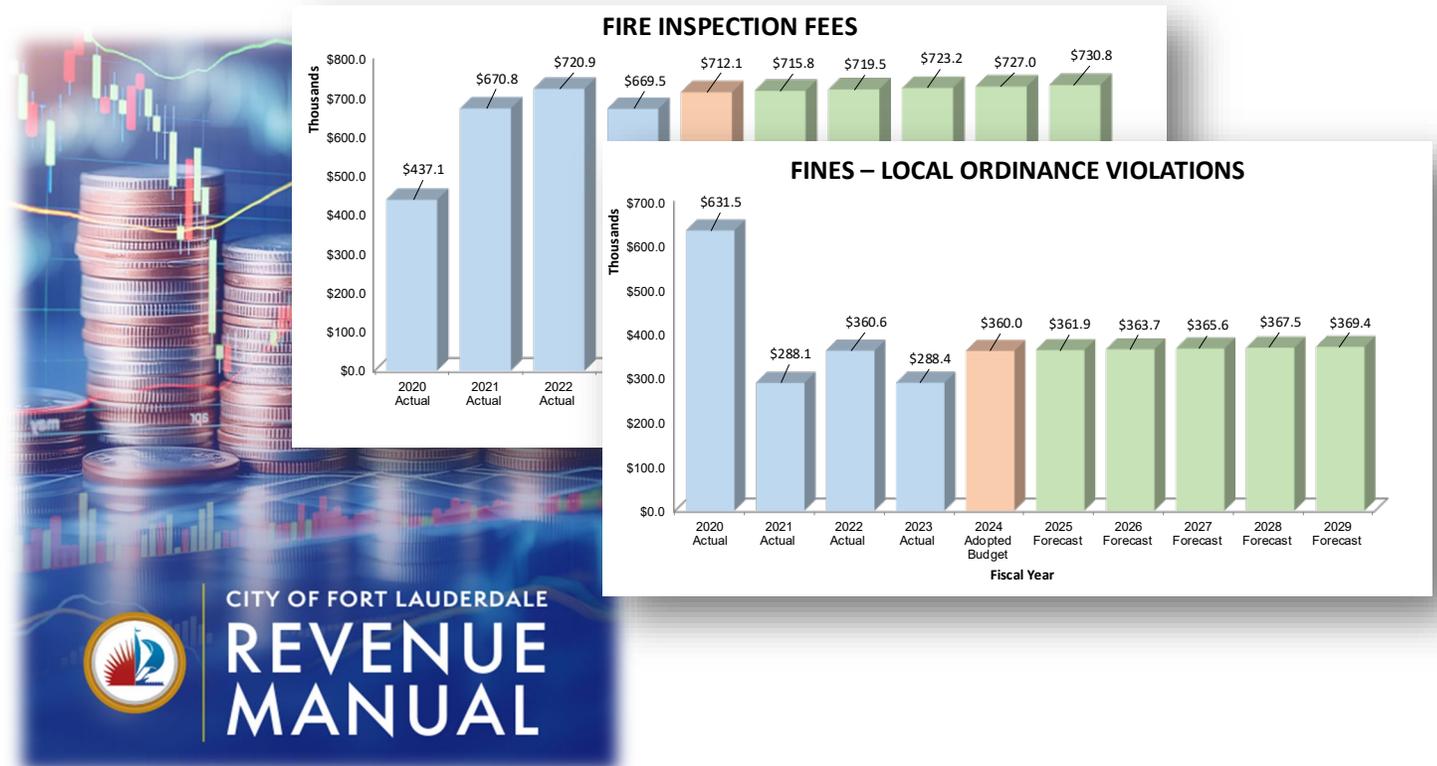
- Ten (10) members appointed by resolution to the City Commission

## Recent Accomplishments:

- Championed strategically enhancing public safety
- Advocated for changing how credit card processing fees are managed
- Garnered support for voter approved bonds for Public Safety Headquarters and Park Improvement Projects
- Spearheaded an analysis of revenue growth opportunities

# Revenue Estimating Conference Committee (RECC)

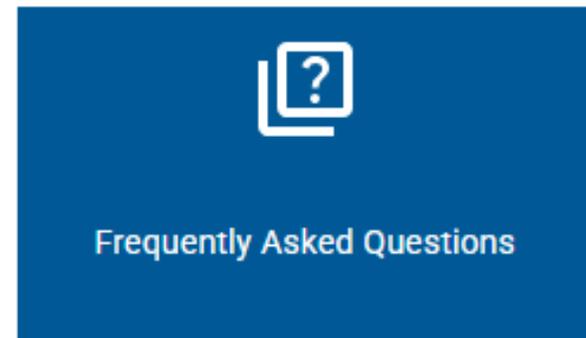
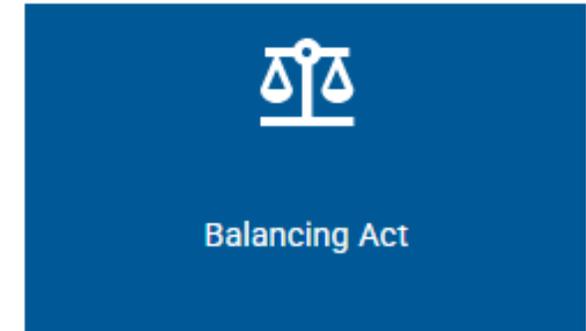
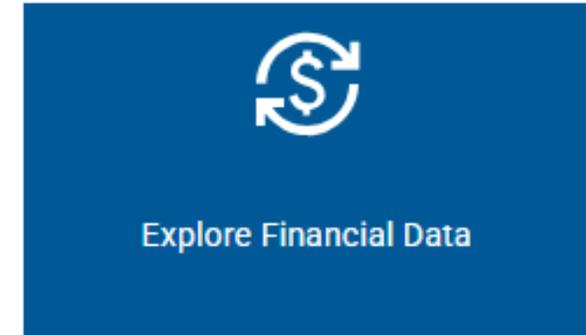
- The City's Revenue Estimating Conference Committee (RECC) convenes every spring to conduct an in-depth review and establish consensus regarding General Fund revenue estimates
- RECC consists of **four members**:
  - An appointment from the Budget Advisory Board
  - An appointment from the Audit Advisory Board
  - One staff member from the Office of Management and Budget
  - One staff member from the Finance Department



# Resources on City's Website

The City's Office of Management and Budget website provides a variety of resources to promote transparency about the City's budgeting process, including:

- **Preliminary Budgets by Departments** – includes line-item details
- **City Replacement Plans** – All plans are published for review including the City's vehicle replacement plan, public safety equipment plans, and information technology equipment plans
- **Real-Time Financial Data** – Updated daily allowing residents to segment financial information by department, fund, and program
- **Adopted Budget Books** – GFOA Distinguished Adopted Budget Books



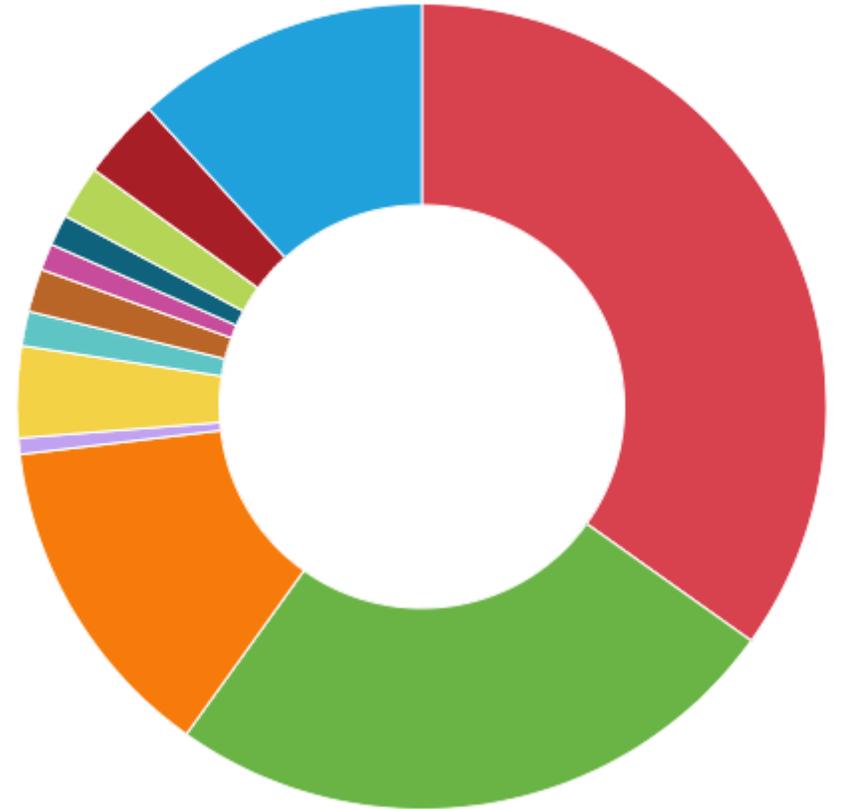
# Balancing Act

The City provides a live simulation of the City's proposed General Fund budget, offering residents a way to explore and understand the budget.

This tool promotes:

- **Transparency:**
  - Gives residents full visibility of the year's proposed decision packages, helping them understand the budgetary context.
  - Connects budget decisions with service levels and policy choices.
- **Accountability:**
  - Shows residents exactly how their property taxes are allocated.
  - Highlights the value and impact of governmental services.
- **Participation:**
  - Empowers residents to adjust funding allocations and explore trade-offs.
  - Lets residents step into the role of City Manager – approving or rejecting enhanced funding requests.
  - Allows residents to submit their preferred budget directly to the Office of Management and Budget for review.

## Where the Money Goes



## Revenue



# Budget Development – Citizen Engagement Portal

OMB has an active Citizen Engagement landing page for the City's Budget Process – with the following resources:

- **Overview of Process:**

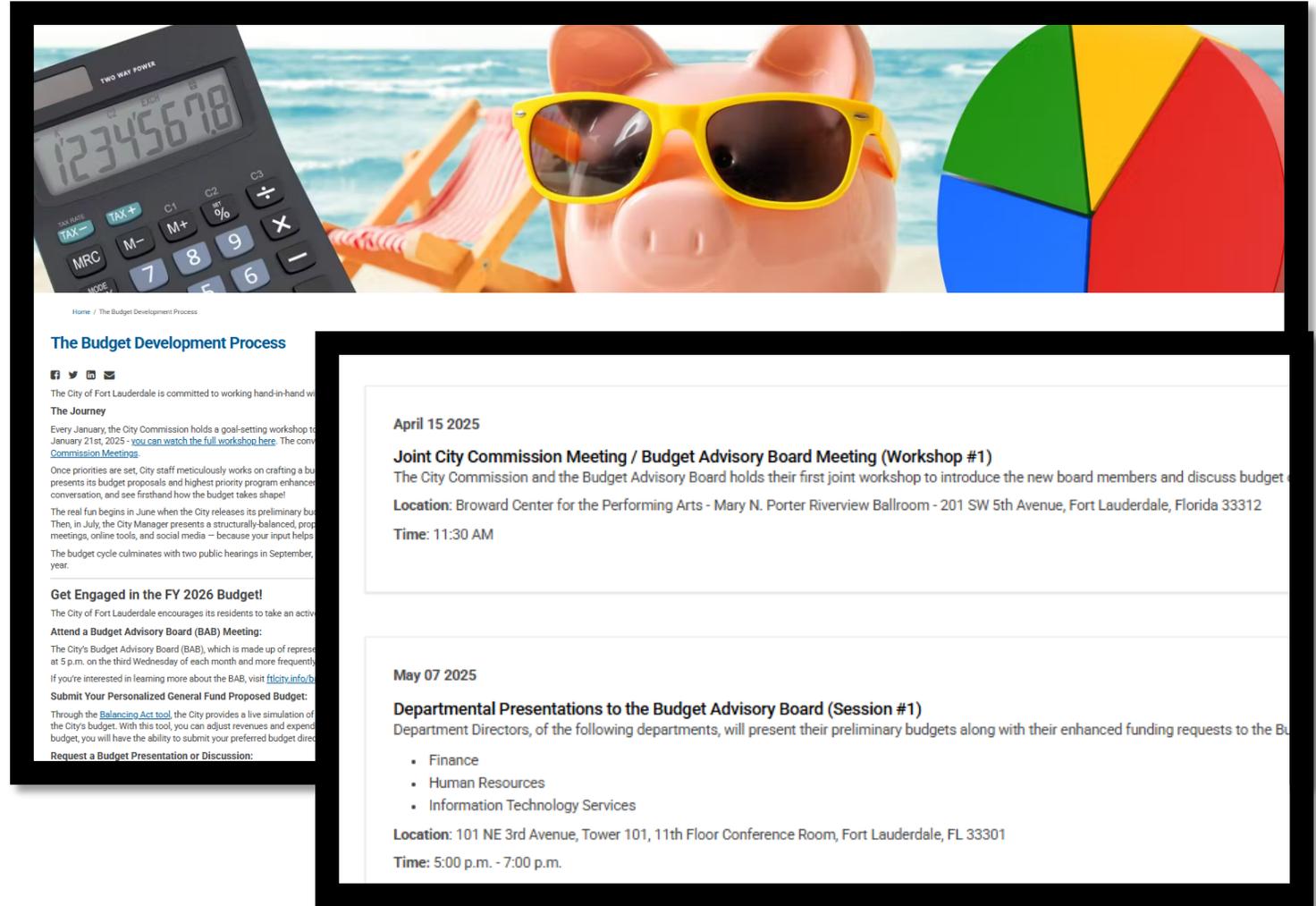
- Detailed step-by-step overview of the budget development with engagement ideas at different stages

- **Key Meeting Dates:**

- All key meeting dates, including times and locations, have been listed

- **Engagement Opportunities:**

- Overview, and links, to various engagement opportunities
- Information on how to connect with Budget Advisory Board (BAB) and OMB Staff
- Polls - What areas should the City prioritize for funding enhancements in the FY 2027 budget?



# Engage in the Budget Process

- ✓ Attend the Annual Commission Prioritization Workshop
- ✓ Attend any of the sixteen Budget Advisory Board or Revenue Estimating Conference Committee Meetings
- ✓ Engage with budget data via the tools on OMB's website
- ✓ Communicate with your elected officials about your priorities
- ✓ Attend a September Public Budget Hearing
- ✓ Request a budget presentation through your civic group and homeowner's association





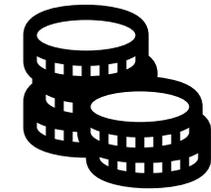
**MISSION**



**VISION**



**STRATEGY**



**BUDGET**